

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1080

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 1299

FOR DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY READ FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP, AMGT, HU
SUBJECT: EMBASSY CLASSIFICATION

1. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR REVIEWING THE DECISION LAST YEAR OF THE PRIORITIES POLICY GROUP (PPG) TO RECLASSIFY EMBASSY BUDAPEST FROM A CLASS III TO A CLASS IV POST, AND HOPE THAT AFTER DOING SO YOU WILL REDESIGNATE HUNGARY AS A CLASS III POST. I MAKE THIS REQUEST ON THE BASIS OF THE MAIN CRITERION LAID DOWN BY DICK MOOSE IN HIS APRIL 6, 1977

MEMORANDUM TO AMBASSADOR SAYRE. MOOSE EMPHASIZED THAT SAYRE WAS NOT 'TO RANK COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, BUT...THE ROLE OF THE AMBASSADOR AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MISSION HE HEADS IN THE CONDUCT OF RELATIONS OF THOSE COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS.' MY EXPERIENCE IN BUDAPEST SINCE LAST SUMMER SHOWS CLEARLY THAT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR NOW PLAYS AND WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A MUCH MORE SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE CONDUCT OF AMERICAN-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS.

2. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN MAKING STRIKING PROGRESS IN OUR RELATIONS WITH HUNGARY IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS. BY RETURNING THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN AND NEGOTIATING A MOST-FAVORED-NATION TRADE AGREEMENT, WE HAVE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUDAPE 01299 300922Z

PLACED OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS ON A MUCH HIGHER PLANE. AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING IMMODEST, I THINK IT FAIR TO STATE THAT THE ROLE OF THE AMBASSADOR AND THIS EMBASSY WAS CRUCIAL IN THE RESOLUTION OF THESE TWO ISSUES. I AM CONVINCED THAT THESE STEPS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE DEPARTMENT'S FULL USE OF THE AMBASSADOR IN THESE DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO PLAYED

A KEY ROLE IN RESOLVING SOME DIFFICULT ISSUES WHICH WERE PREVENTING THE SIGNING OF A WORKING DOCUMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE PREVIOUS ACCORD ON SCIENTIFIC, EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES.

3. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, I ANTICIPATE THAT THESE SUCCESSES WILL INCREASE MY TASKS DURING THE REMAINDER OF MY TOUR AS WELL AS THOSE OF MY SUCCESSORS. WE HAVE OPENED UP A NEW ERA IN HUNGARIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS: THE OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY THE NEW TRADE AGREEMENT AND THE NEW CULTURAL AND EXCHANGE AGREEMENT AND INCREASED UNDERSTANDING WILL ADD TO THE CENTRAL ROLE THIS EMBASSY WILL PLAY. WE WILL BE ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES IN BUDAPEST FOR WHICH THERE IS NO PRECEDENT IN OUR PREVIOUS RELATIONS WITH HUNGARY. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE NO MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS WHICH CAN ASSUME PART OF THIS BURDEN. BILATERALISM HAS BEEN AND WILL REMAIN THE SOLE MEANS FOR CONDUCTING OUR RELATIONS WITH HUNGARY, AND THE ROLE OF THE AMBASSADOR WILL BE PREDOMINANT.

4. I BELIEVE THAT U.S. RELATIONS WITH HUNGARY NOW RANK AS HIGH IN OUR PRIORITIES AS RELATIONS WITH POLAND, ROMANIA, AND THE GDR. OUR EMBASSIES IN ALL THESE COUNTRIES ARE CLASSIFIED AS CLASS II OR III. IT IS ALSO FAIR TO STATE THAT OUR RELATIONS WITH HUNGARY HAVE A HIGHER PRIORITY THAN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUDAPE 01299 300922Z

OUR RELATIONS WITH THE OTHER TWO CAPITALS IN EASTERN EUROPE WHERE WE HAVE CLASS IV POSTS.

5. I NOTE IN PASSING THAT THE DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED BY THE PPG LAST YEAR UNDERSTATE BOTH THE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO BUDAPEST AND THE EMBASSY BUDGET. THE EMBASSY'S AUTHORIZED AMERICAN POSITIONS CURRENTLY TOTAL 24 CIVILIANS, SIX MILITARY, SEVEN MARINES, AND ONE NURSE (TEMPORARY). THE EMBASSY'S CURRENT BUDGET IS \$733,000 (S&E), (185,570 (FBO), ETC., FOR A TOTAL OF \$848,970.

6. I HOPE YOU WILL AGREE THAT THE CASE FOR RECLASSIFICATION IS CLEAR AND COGENT.
KAISER

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